



QUEENSLAND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS COMMISSION

12 November 2014

Mr John Oliver  
State Secretary  
United Firefighters Union of Australia  
Union of Employees Queensland  
Ground Floor, 286 Montague Road  
West End, QLD 4101

Dear Mr Oliver, *John,*

I belatedly refer to your letters to myself dated 11 September and 24 September 2014, respectively. I sincerely apologise to you for not responding earlier.

Your letter of 11 September 2014 raises quite valid questions about the content of my letter dated 10 September 2014, particularly the assertions made within it to the effect that the Award Modernisation Request from the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice requires the award modernisation process for the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) sector to be completed by 30 April 2015.

The actual position is that, notwithstanding the content of the Request, I was directed by the Vice President of the Commission to include the preparation of a modern award for the QFES sector in that group of awards which the Award Modernisation (AMOD) Team is to develop during the course of Stage 2 of the award modernisation process. Unfortunately, a letter in the same terms as that sent to other parties interested in Awards to be dealt with during Stage 2 was sent to both UFU and QFES on 10 September 2014. As the signatory to that letter I take full responsibility for the fact that it was erroneously sent to you in the terms in which it was framed.

Any reference to Awards of interest to UFU being referred to in the Minister's updated Request of 27 August 2014 should be totally disregarded. As such, I again apologise to you, and your members, for any confusion which might have arisen as a result of the contents of my letter of 10 September 2014.

In relation to your letter of 24 September 2014, which contains details of correspondence between UFU and QFES, and *vice versa*, I have to confess that I am (again) to blame for that material not finding its way to the manager of the AMOD Team, Mr Bond.

The binder in which the material was housed was delivered to my office on the day on which UFU filed it in the Registry, or on the following day, and I placed it on my side board with other award modernisation material that I was then dealing with. Several days later, after I viewed the file, I decided to deliver it to Mr Bond for his noting and attention. Unfortunately,

for reasons I cannot explain, the file did not find its way to Mr Bond but, instead, was found in a different part of my Chambers after Mr Bond and Commissioner Knight spoke to me following the award modernisation conference on Friday 7 November 2014.

As a person who has always tried to attend to the "detail" of matters before me I am extremely embarrassed by the two events discussed above. Can I assure you that this has nothing to do with any view that I might have about UFU, yourself, its officers or members. Far from it. The errors are attributable to (what I shall describe as) "blemishes" on my part.

I wish to assure you and your colleagues that, as the person responsible for the conduct of the award modernisation process within the Commission, I will be doing everything in my power to ensure that no similar errors/mistakes/lack of attention to detail occurs during the process of the modernisation of Awards of interest to UFU and yourself.

Kind regards,



A.L. Bloomfield  
Deputy President